

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 EB-03 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
/032 W

-----190937 103863 /20

R 182300Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776  
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1397

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PE, US, SNAR, EDIS  
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE'S VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON

REF: LIMA 1156, STATE 033623

1. I MET WITH FONMIN DE LA PUENTE AT HIS OFFICE FOR  
OVER AN HOUR TODAY (FEBRUARY 18) TO DISCUSS HIS  
WASHINGTON VISIT. HIS REACTION TO THE VISIT WAS AS  
APPRECIATIVE AND POSITIVE AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. HIS  
TREATMENT OF THE VARIOUS TOPICS COVERED DURING HIS  
CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WAS ESSENTIALLY AS PRE-  
SENTED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VERY COMPLETE AND INFORMA-  
TIVE ROUND UP CABLE.

2. PERHAPS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT  
WAS DE LA PUENTE'S CLEAR RECOGNITION DURING OUR  
CONVERSATION OF THE VERY CONSIDERABLE CONCERN CREATED  
IN WASHINGTON AND OTHER HEMISPHERE CAPITALS BY PERU'S  
ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIETS AND THE DANGER OF AN  
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ARMS RACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. AFTER REPEATING  
GOP'S STANDARD EXPLANATION FOR ITS RECENT ARMS PROCUREMENT  
PROGRAM (REPLACEMENT, MODERNIZATION AND DEFENSE) AND  
THE REASON FOR GOING THE SOVIET ROUTE (VERY FAVORABLE  
PRICES AND CREDIT TERMS AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC PINCH),  
DE LA PUENTE EXPRESSED HIS STRONG PERSONAL VIEW THAT NOW  
IS THE TIME FOR (A) PERU TO REDUCE ITS MILITARY EXPENDITURES

AND (B) FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TOWARD REGIONAL ARMS AGREEMENT IN THE SPIRIT OF AYACUCHO. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ SHARES THESE CONVICTIONS AND PERU PLANS TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES SOON. HE RECOGNIZED THE SU-22 WAS A MUCH HOTTER AIRCRAFT THAN PERU REALLY NEEDS TO REPLACE ITS AGING, OBSOLETE FIGHTER-BOMBERS AND UNDERSTOOD WHY THIS PURCHASE COUPLED WITH THE SOVIET TANKS, ETC. HAD LED TO SERIOUS CONCERN IN ECUADOR AND ELSEWHERE. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE SU-22 WAS THE ONLY AIRCRAFT IN THAT CATEGORY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD OFFER PERU AT THE FAVORABLE COST AND CREDIT TERMS THAT MADE THE BUY POSSIBLE.

3. I TOLD DE LA PUENTE THAT I THOUGHT ONE OF THE GOP'S MAIN TASKS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WOULD BE TO CONVINCE THEIR NEIGHBORS THAT THESE WEAPONS WERE ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND THAT PERU'S MILITARY PURCHASES COULD NOW BE EXPECTED TO TAPER OFF IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION. HE AGREED AND INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THIS INDEED WOULD BE THE CASE. IN REGARD TO EFFORTS TOWARDS REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION DE LA PUENTE REITERATED THE STATEMENTS HE MADE IN WASHINGTON THAT THE US COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE BY RESTRICTING OUR OWN ARMS SALES. HE RECOGNIZED HOWEVER THAT SUCH ROLE WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY THE EXISTENCE OF ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

4. WE DISCUSSED THE RECENT REDUCTION IN FMS CREDITS REQUESTED FOR PERU AND DE LA PUENTE AGAIN EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE PLACED IN A CONTEXT OF "PUNISHMENT" FOR PERU. I HELPED DISPEL THIS IMPRESSION BY REITERATING OUR DESIRE FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH PERU IN ALL AREAS INCLUDING MILITARY AND POINTING TO THE CONTINUED HIGH-LEVEL OF OUR MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THIS COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TO PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICER EXCHANGE VISITS.

5. WE TOUCHED ON TWO OTHER MATTERS OF BILATERAL INTEREST THAT EVIDENTLY WERE NOT DISCUSSED DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, THE GULF OIL QUESTION AND OUR JOINT NARCOTICS EFFORTS. ON THE FIRST DE LA PUENTE WAS WELL INFORMED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. I BRIEFED HIM ON THE STATUS OF OUR NARCOTICS COOPERATION MAKING A PITCH FOR THE RAPID APPROVAL OF THE GOP'S NEW PROPOSED OVERALL NARCOTICS PLAN AND THE ACTIVATION OF ITS INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE. I ALSO TOOK UP WITH HIM A MATTER OF INCREASING CONCERN TO US AND TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENTS OF

BOTH COUNTRIES I.E. THE UNEXPECTED EXONERATION,  
ESCAPE OR RELEASE FROM JAIL OF CERTAIN MAJOR TRAFFICKERS  
IN RECENT MONTHS. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT MORALES  
BERMUDEZ WAS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE BATTLE AGAINST  
THE TRAFFIC AND ABUSE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS AND ANXIOUS  
TO INCREASE THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN  
THESE MATTERS. DE LA PUENTE SAID HE WOJLD PERSONALLY  
LOOK INTO THE MATTERS I HAD BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION  
AND TAKE THEM UP DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT MORALES  
BERMUDEZ.

6. COMMENT: DE LA PUENTE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS  
A DEFINITE PLUS. IT CONTRIBUTED TO GOOD WILL AND  
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PERU AND OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION,  
OPENING UP A FRANK DIALOGUE ON A NUMBER OF VITAL ISSUES  
OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERN WHICH SHOULD  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS AND THE AVOIDANCE  
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OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND UNDESIRABLE SURPRISES IN THE FUTURE.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SNAR, PE, US, (DE LA PUENTE RADBILL, JOSE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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